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IN MEMORIAM

Emil Witschi
(1890-1971)

Professor emeritus Emil Witschi, for 35 years an active member of the Department of Zoology at The University of Iowa, died June 9, 1971 in New York City at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, Ida Martha, his daughter Marianne (Mrs. Dwight Potter), and his son Hans.

Professor Witschi was born in Bern, Switzerland, February 18, 1890. He received the B.A. degree from Bern Teachers College in 1909, the M.S. from the State University of Bern in 1911, and the Ph.D. from the University of Munich in 1913. In 1914 he married Ida Martha Muehlestein; they had two children. He taught at the Scientific Gymnasium at Basel from 1914 until coming to The University of Iowa in 1927 as professor, from which post he retired in 1958, although remaining active on a full-time basis. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1933. In 1962 he accepted the post of specialist in reproductive physiology for the Ford Foundation and spent five years in consultative, advisory, and supervisory work in the laboratories of western Europe. In 1967 he left the Ford Foundation to become a senior scientist in the biomedical division of the Population Council at Rockefeller University, where he remained until his death.

While Professor Witschi's teaching activities were focussed primarily on the disciplines of embryology and biology of sex, his intellectual interests and his research efforts covered a much broader biological spectrum, including aspects of endocrinology, genetics, teratogenesis, and problems of underwater hearing. He was the author, or co-author, of more than 200 research papers and review articles, as well as author of a textbook in embryology and contributor to numer-

ous monographs. He was sponsor for 38 Ph.D. candidates at Iowa.

The excellence of his work and the quality of his intellectual attainments earned him international recognition and respect, and brought him many honors, including fellowships from the University of Bern, 1914; the Rockefeller Foundation, 1926-1927; visiting professorships at Tübingen, 1948-49; Paris, 1959; Yale, 1961; and Taiwan, 1962. He was the recipient of the Koch Medal of the Endocrine Society, was the subject of the Witschi "Jubilee" at the University of Paris in 1959, memorialized in the Jubilee supplement to volume 48 of the *Archiv de Anatomie Microscopique et de Morphologie Experimentale*, and was awarded an honorary M.D. degree from the University of Basel in 1960.

Professor Witschi was a past president of the American Society of Zoologists, a member of the permanent committee of the International Congresses of Zoology since 1963, and the recipient of numerous grants from the National Research Council, NSF, NIH, etc. He held membership in 13 scientific societies, both national and international, and was honorary or corresponding member in 7 others.

Despite a busy schedule and a virtual compulsion to continuous industry, Professor Witschi was always available and willing to offer advice to students and colleagues. On the social level his basic modesty, outgoing friendliness, and sense of humor made him a delightful companion. Regret at his passing by students, colleagues, and friends will be in part, at least, alleviated by recollections of the pleasure and privilege of friendship and association with him.

DR. A. W. SWENSEN 1897-1972

Dr. A. W. Swensen, 75, died suddenly December 11, 1972, at his home in Waverly.

He was born in Jackson, Minnesota, and as a boy he moved with his family to Decorah, where he graduated from high school in 1916. Following military service in WWI, he continued his education at Luther College, graduating with a B.A. in 1920. The next year was spent at Alta Vista, where he was the school superintendent.

In the summer of 1921 Dr. Swensen came to Wartburg College as an instructor. In 1924 he was united in marriage to Alice Willharm in Sumner. His graduate training was completed at The University of Iowa, where he received the Ph.D. degree in 1948. Dr. Swensen served as head of the Chemistry Department at Wartburg from 1933 until 1966. He was named Professor Emeritus of Chemistry by the Wartburg Board of Regents in 1968.

Dr. Swensen was a man of broad interests and activities. During his years at Wartburg he was chairman of the Wartburg College Artist Series for 45 years, he coached the basketball team at one time, and served as director of the College Orchestra and the Waverly Municipal Band. His professional activities included participation in the Iowa college and high school visiting scientist program under the sponsorship of the NSF for three years, and he had been chairman of the Physical Chemistry Section of the Iowa Academy of Sciences for two years. He had also been a visiting professor at The University of Iowa and Mankato State College. He was a member of the AAAS, a charter member of the National Safety Council, and a member of the National Safety Council Committee on Drugs and Alcohol for 28 years. He was a member of the honorary fraternities Phi Lambda Upsilon, Sigma Xi and Alpha Chi Sigma.